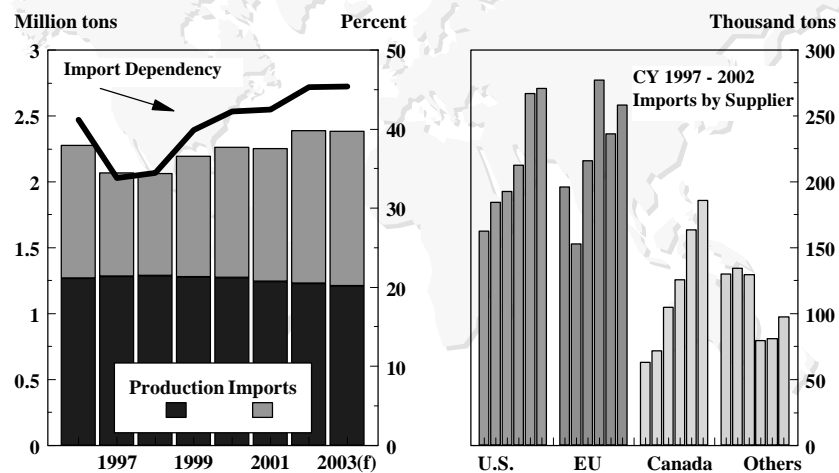


# Japan's Pork Situation

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003(f)
(1,000 tons; CWE)								
Beginning Stocks	175	255	190	106	90	126	170	198
Production	1,266	1,283	1,285	1,277	1,269	1,242	1,228	1,210
Imports	1,010	786	777	919	995	1,012	1,162	1,175
Consumption	2,196	2,134	2,146	2,212	2,228	2,209	2,362	2,420
Ending Stocks	255	190	106	90	126	170	198	132

## Japan's Growing Pork Consumption Met Increasingly Through Imports as Domestic Production Stagnates



Pork production has been steadily declining due to the shrinking number of swine producers. Between 1992 and 2001, the number of hog producers dropped 33 percent. During the same time frame, as pork production fell 13 percent, consumption grew by almost 9 percent. For 2003, imports are forecast to increase by about 1 percent. The imposition of a safeguard tariff in August 2002, lasting through March 31, 2003, seems to be having little effect. In 2002, pork imports grew by more than 8 percent over the previous year. The safeguard raises the minimum price at which foreign pork can be imported into Japan, making imported pork less competitive vis-à-vis domestic products. Although the safeguard typically lowers demand for all imported pork, demand for frozen products tends to decline the most. Under the safeguard, imported fresh pork, which typically benefits from larger profit margins, but has a more limited shelf life, continues to be in relatively high demand. The United States is the largest foreign supplier to the Japanese market, followed closely by Denmark, Canada and Mexico.

**Japan**  
**PORK IMPORTS**  
(in metric tons)

Fresh/Chilled								
Origin	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Australia	65	25	403	1,549	2,139	3,824	6,325	11,364
Canada	4,597	7,242	15,804	20,347	28,314	41,133	44,661	44,370
EU-15	222	67	415	390	435	476	193	326
Korea	3,106	4,534	10,576	18,405	21,725	4,842	0	0
Mexico	17	23	267	1,910	6,622	12,927	14,356	11,956
Taiwan	83,360	79,772	12,332	0	0	0	0	0
United States	76,159	77,233	89,116	101,956	112,730	128,189	134,988	137,634
Others	0	1	0	0	3	9	42	6
Total	167,526	168,897	128,913	144,557	171,968	191,400	200,565	205,656
US market share	45%	46%	69%	71%	66%	67%	67%	67%
Frozen								
Origin	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Australia	314	447	2,842	4,395	2,876	2,326	2,493	1,824
Canada	26,855	32,088	38,630	41,496	62,707	70,033	108,389	134,747
Chile	0	0	768	5,019	4,708	8,358	10,112	21,586
EU-15	152,453	157,426	194,918	150,529	213,614	273,645	236,219	256,950
Hungary	0	0	0	0	196	5,413	13,197	16,852
Korea	10,715	30,328	37,925	71,793	58,774	11,997	0	0
Mexico	6,847	13,012	24,771	28,694	30,167	26,866	27,844	28,677
Taiwan	183,495	186,454	35,206	0	0	0	0	0
United States	32,406	64,559	47,926	58,258	54,984	60,895	109,859	111,233
Others	65	82	61	196	67	138	12	56
Total	413,150	484,396	383,047	360,380	428,093	459,671	508,125	571,925
US market share	8%	13%	13%	16%	13%	13%	22%	19%
Processed								
Origin	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Australia	0	0	0	2	1	0	167	770
Canada	6,614	14,417	8,546	9,880	13,674	14,715	10,291	7,142
China	140	332	927	1,092	1,655	2,282	2,696	3,357
EU-15	2,549	1,379	591	1,729	1,764	2,961	2,043	1,076
Korea	0	1	12	400	339	49	0	0
Mexico	63	2,063	1,712	1,042	361	470	342	94
Switzerland	63	49	29	22	22	16	12	7
Taiwan	490	1,046	141	0	39	200	618	295
Thailand	349	104	90	96	73	49	52	162
United States	17,136	34,015	25,467	24,338	24,798	23,690	22,006	22,101
Others	3	2	0	3	0	1	8	4
Total	27,407	53,408	37,515	38,604	42,726	44,433	38,235	35,008
US market share	63%	64%	68%	63%	58%	53%	58%	63%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>608,083</b>	<b>706,701</b>	<b>549,475</b>	<b>543,541</b>	<b>642,787</b>	<b>695,504</b>	<b>746,925</b>	<b>812,589</b>
US market share	21%	25%	30%	34%	30%	31%	36%	33%

Note: All data are reported in product weight

Source: Japan Customs